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BOROUGH OF MOSSLEY.

.....
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
.....

The
ANNUAL REPORTS
of
The Medical Officer of Health
and of
The Sanitary Inspector
For 1946.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health, 1946

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH
SEWAGE AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my eighteenth Annual Report.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	3,624
Population :						
At Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	12,042
Estimated, middle 1946	...	...	...	...	...	10,250
Number of Inhabited Houses :						
At Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	3,519
Estimated, end of 1946	...	...	...	...	...	3,563
Rateable Value...	...	...	...	...	...	£45,111
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£174.8

The district is almost entirely an industrial one, and the chief industries are those of cotton and woollen manufacturing and wool combing. There are also in the town two small foundries, a wire works which has grown considerably in the last few years, and a number of small factories engaged in engineering work and surgical dressing manufacture. None of these industries is injurious to health.

2.—VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	191	107	84	
	{ Illegitimate	8	2	6	Birth Rate per 1,000
	{ Total	199	109	90	estimated population mid-1946, 19.4

Stillbirths	...	...	8	5	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
						38

Deaths	...	...	142	74	68	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population
						13.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	40
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				41
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	22
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

Per 1,000 of estimated population Maternal Mortality Rate

Estimated mid-year population, 10,250.	Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death Rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Live Births.
<i>Mean of 5 years</i>							
1941-1945	16.1	15.4	0.32	2.16	1.19	1.14	54
Year 1945	14.9	16.1	0.20	1.86	Nil	Nil	76
Year 1946...	19.4	13.8	0.29	2.14	Nil	Nil	40
<i>Increase or decrease in 1946 on 5 years' average</i>							
1941-1945...	+3.3	-1.6	-0.03	-0.02	-1.19	-1.14	-14
<i>Previous yr.</i>	+4.5	-2.3	+0.09	+0.28	Nil	Nil	-36

3.—CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	1
Influenza ...	—	1
Cancer (all forms) ...	10	12
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	7	7
Heart Disease ...	26	19
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	4	5
Bronchitis ...	6	2
Pneumonia ...	3	3

Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—
Digestive Diseases (other than Appendicitis)	2	3
Nephritis	5	5
Premature Birth	1	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	1	3
Violent Causes (other than Suicide and Road Traffic Accidents)	1	1
All Other Causes	5	4
	<hr/> 74	<hr/> 68
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Diseases	Total cases at all ages	CASES NOTIFIED.												Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital belonging to this District																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Smallpox

5.—TUBERCULOSIS.

The notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15-20 ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25-35 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45-55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	6	1	1	2	1	—	1
	9		2		3		1	

6.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(1) Ambulance Services.

There are two motor ambulances which provide the necessary service in the town. A mutual aid agreement has been in force with the neighbouring boroughs for a number of years and has worked satisfactorily.

(2) Pathological Examinations.

During recent years there have been increasing demands for such examinations, and arrangements are in force for such work to be done at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, and at the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester.

(3) Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 136 children completed the course of immunisation. Of these 113 were under 5 years of age and 23 were between 5 and 14 years of age.

The immunisation state of the child population at the end of the year was :—

Percentage protected under 5 years of age	...	57
„ „ over 5 and under 15 years of age	... ..	90
„ „ (all children under 15 years of age	... ..	78

(4) Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time) :

LEONARD WHITE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspectors :

HAROLD B. BELL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

C. R. DRIVER, A.R.San.I.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

LEONARD WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH
SEWAGE AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1946.

DRAINAGE.

Sixteen new houses have been connected to the public sewers during the year. Private drain connections are examined prior to filling in, and all connections to the public sewers are made by the Corporation, or by the Contractors under the supervision of the Corporation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, DISINFESTATION, ETC.

Disinfections have been carried out after 11 cases of infectious disease. A total of 18 rooms and 140 articles of clothing and bedding was dealt with. Disinfections have also been carried out after 12 deaths from non-infectious disease.

Two privately-owned houses, involving 10 rooms, have been disinfested after complaints of vermin. The methods employed were to spray the houses thoroughly with " Vermicine " and to follow this up with formalin fumigator lamps, which were allowed to burn for a period of six hours. This work was carried out by the local authority at the expense of the owners concerned.

Rooms occupied by persons suffering from tuberculosis are disinfected in cases where the patients are removed to sanatoria and in cases which terminate fatally. Householders frequently desire to have beds and bedding treated at the disinfecting station upon the fatal termination of an illness which is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Acts. In cases where the doctor in attendance or the Medical Officer of Health considers such treatment desirable, the work is done free of charge. In other cases a charge is made towards the cost incurred. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is carried out at the Corporation Depot, Scout. The apparatus consists of an Alliot & Paton's Patent High Pressure Steam Disinfecter. Householders who reside within the district are supplied with disinfectant for domestic use free of charge, on application at the Town Hall. A man is in attendance on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. The distribution of disinfectants free of charge requires to be strictly supervised, otherwise waste and misuse occur. Disinfectants should not be used in an attempt to disinfect drains and get rid of a foul odour which, on investigation, may be found to be due to some defect in the system; nor as substitutes for soap and water, fresh air, and sunlight.

SCAVENGING AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

There are approximately 180 dry ashpits and 2,823 galvanized iron ashbins in use within the Borough. The number of ashbins in use has increased by 12. They are emptied each week and the contents removed to the Corporation Tip at Scout Depot. The whole of the household refuse is collected by two Karrier "Bantam" Refuse Collectors. Approximately 1,700 loads of household refuse are dealt with per annum, equivalent to about 45 tons per week. No charge is at present made to shopkeepers for the removal and disposal of trade refuse. There is still approximately 20-25 per cent. of the refuse stored in fixed ashpits. The amount of refuse handled per week is increasing. The increased use of the gas and electrical appliances for cooking and heating makes it difficult for the housewife to burn combustible refuse, especially in the summer time. The land available for tipping at the Corporation Depot is practically exhausted, and the land purchased at Little Mill for this purpose contains a dump of Government coal. In addition

there are 13 allotments in use at Little Mill. Because of these facts only a small proportion of this land is available for tipping.

There are approximately 2,680 pail closets, 1,012 fresh water flush closets, and 145 waste water closets. The pails are emptied once per week, cleaned and disinfected. The contents are mixed with a suitable absorbent and disposed of as a fertiliser.

The number of fresh water flush closets has increased by 75. Under Section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936, the Council has made a contribution of £8 in 45 cases in which a water closet has been substituted for a pail closet. The work is undertaken voluntarily by the owners concerned, and the total number of new water closets provided under the scheme since it was adopted by the Council in July, 1945, is 46.

SALVAGE.

The salvage of waste materials has continued during the year. The following table shows the weight and the value of the materials sold, with comparative totals for the previous two years.

<i>Material.</i>	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Baled waste paper ...	47	3	0	0	296	5	2
Paper tube waste ...	2	16	3	0	12	1	3
Mixed heavy iron ...	2	9	2	0	6	16	1
Light iron ...	2	3	2	0	4	7	0
Old rags ...	0	11	0	22	4	19	7
Old carpets and sacking	2	17	1	21	8	12	4
String ...	0	8	0	11	1	12	4
Mixed bottles ...	4	15	0	0	14	0	8
Raw kitchen waste ...	73	13	0	0	116	0	0
Total 1946 ...	136	17	1	26	464	14	5
Total 1945 ...	135	0	3	3	477	7	11
Total 1944 ...	137	4	3	21	506	13	8

From the 1st April, 1946, the Board of Trade (Salvage and Recovery Directorate) has made an allowance of 10/- for each ton of raw kitchen waste collected. The first payment of this allowance, for the six months ended 30th September, 1946, amounted to £17 6s. 1d.

A waste paper collection allowance, payable at the rate of £1 for each ton of waste paper sold in excess of 80 per cent. of the weight sold in the corresponding period in 1945, amounted in the year to £6 15s. 6d.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is now only one common Lodging House within the Borough. This is situated in Mill Street, and the condition is fair.

NUISANCES.

One hundred and twenty-two informal notices and two statutory notices have been served. One hundred and seven nuisances have been abated. In addition many defects and nuisances have been attended to by owners as a result of personal interviews. In the majority of cases owners of property maintain their houses in a reasonable state of repair, but there are some owners and agents of property who fail to carry out the most necessary work until pressure has been brought to bear by the officials of the Health Department. There is also a class of tenant who fails to maintain the premises he occupies in a reasonable state of cleanliness. Several nuisances of this type have been abated.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No notices have been received during the year dealing with sanitary provisions, etc., under this Act. Notices have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories at various times, notifying changes of occupation, etc.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND TRIPE-BOILING WORKS.

There are two licensed slaughter-houses within the district and two tripe-boiling establishments. All the above are periodically inspected. It has not been necessary to take any proceedings for infringement of the Bye-Laws or Regulations.

MEAT INSPECTION AND MEAT REGULATIONS.

Owing to the fact that the meat is now supplied from Oldham, there is no slaughtering within the district.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are the officials duly authorised by the Council to administer the Meat Regulations.

Twelve men hold licences to slaughter animals granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 29 bakehouses within the Borough. Most of these are on a small scale, the occupiers baking for their own retail trade. Limewashing has been carried out when necessary, the general condition and cleanliness are good, and no offences have been detected from this source.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK-SHOPS.

There are 17 farms, 31 cowsheds and 17 cowkeepers within the Borough. The cowkeepers retail the milk which they produce and are registered as cowkeepers and purveyors. Eighteen retail purveyors of milk who reside outside the district are registered. Three milk-shops, one retail dairy and seven wholesale producers of milk are also registered. All farm premises are regularly inspected, in order to ensure compliance with the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

One supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation "Accredited" has been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, to a farmer residing outside the district who sells milk within the Borough. In addition, a supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" has been issued to a dairy whose principal licence was granted by the Failsworth U.D.C. Bottled milk is also sold from shop premises. All persons handling this product have been registered as "wholesale purveyors of milk" or "retail purveyors of milk" as the case may be.

There are on the register 17 retail purveyors and six wholesale purveyors of bottled milk.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

The issuing of movement licences and inspections arising out of the movements of animals under licence are dealt with by the Police who, when necessary, call in on behalf of the Mossley Corporation a qualified veterinary surgeon for examination of contacts of notifiable disease.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In the case of excessive black smoke, factories are visited and are found to be willing to co-operate with the Local Authority in order to prevent this nuisance.

Domestic chimneys. The Police normally deal with the question of excessive smoke from a domestic chimney.

SEWAGE WORKS.

The Inspectors of the Lancashire Rivers Board have visited the Works on several occasions. The effluent has been variable in quality, and on most occasions has been classed "bad" when analysed.

The readings registered by the Flow Recording Apparatus are taken daily. These readings, together with daily rainfall readings obtained from the Waterworks Engineer, are forwarded periodically to Mr. Waters, our Consulting Engineer.

Negotiations with the Mossley Woolcombing & Spinning Co. Ltd. regarding the disposal of trade waste from their Brunswick Mills are still in progress.

HOUSING.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	0
(2) By Other Local Authorities	...	...	...	0
(3) By Other Bodies or Persons	...	...	...	14

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	153
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	330
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	11
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	25
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	119
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	105
3.	Action under statutory powers during the year :—	
(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	2
(a)	By owners	2
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ...	0
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	0
(a)	By owners	0
(b)	By local authority in default of owners... ..	0

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses Demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... | 0 |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :—

- | | |
|---|----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 4 |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... | 4 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... | 19 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 0 |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 0 |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 0 |

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding. :—

The prevalent type of house comprises living-room, scullery, and two bedrooms, with no bath or W.C. A common defect in older houses is dampness due to the absence of damp-proof course. There are no bad conditions due to overcrowding.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district	50
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses :—

- (a) Give some indication of extent of shortage, stating approximate number and type of houses required.

Although there appears to be no excessive shortage of houses, there is a heavy demand for the better type of house.

- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme :—

(i) in hand—the erection of 10 temporary houses by the Ministry of Works has been completed. Work has commenced on 54 permanent houses at Winterford Road ; these are being erected for the Council by a Contractor.

(ii) Contemplated—further development is planned at the Winterford Road site as soon as conditions allow.

- (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future None.

- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses :—

Suitable sites are difficult to find owing to the hilly nature of the district.

3. Overcrowding :—

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1946 None.

- (b) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding None.

- (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, *e.g.*, causes None.

4. Fitness of Houses :—

- (c) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts ... None.
- (b) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply : 27 houses with private supplies
- (c) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation : 100 approx.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND EXPLOSIVES.

One new licence has been granted for the storage of 2,000 gallons of petroleum spirit. Nineteen licences have been renewed for the storage of a maximum aggregate quantity of 18,850 gallons of petroleum spirit. Two licences have been renewed for the storage of mixed explosives. The registration of six premises for the storage and sale of mixed explosives (fireworks) has been renewed.

No breaches of the regulations have been found.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD B. BELL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

